

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FIRE CHIEF**

In the year of 2004 the Alton Fire & Rescue Department responded to 779 calls for service which are broken down as follows, 178 Fire Calls, 382 EMS Calls, which included 73 Motor Vehicle crashes and 219 calls for service which include new home inspections, foster care, Oil Burners, Wood Stove and Chimney inspections. The Department has also been working with local businesses to include them in the inspection process.

The new Engine 2 is here and has been in service since the end of November with members continuously training with this truck. The other two pieces of equipment that were approved at last years Town Meeting have been ordered and are expected in Alton sometime around the end of March for the new Ambulance, and the beginning of May for the new Rescue Truck.

The Alton Fire & Rescue Department has entered into a few new and challenging areas of the Fire Service. The Department has joined the Belknap County Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Program. This program is for children and teens that are at risk and use fire setting as a way of seeking attention. Arson is the # 1 crime committed by juveniles. Juvenile fire setters account for 40% of all fires in the U.S. Our Juvenile Team has been involved in four interventions so far this summer. We work directly with law enforcement, school and professional counselors, and youth services agencies. Once again this is an educational program. We teach fire safety awareness and help with outside counseling to eliminate fire setting behavior. The other program that we are involved with again this year is the Risk Watch Program. Risk Watch is an injury prevention program covering 8 major subjects. It was introduced to the Fire Department by the State Fire Marshal's Office. Last year we began the program on a trial basis with the First Grade at ACS. It was so well received and successful, that this year we are providing the program to Grades K-2, which includes 220 students. The other program that is new this year is Public Awareness. This program is geared toward our townspeople. It is an educational program for all ages. We have handouts, such as "File of Life" refrigerator magnets. This is a form for medical information that is kept on the refrigerator door. It has information such as medications, emergency contacts, doctors, medical history, and allergies. We also have blood pressure recorder forms, for people who need to keep track of their blood pressure. Townspeople can come to the Alton Central Fire Station to have their blood pressure taken. We are also going to be offering CPR classes, we are also working on training programs that deal specifically with our elderly population and how we can educate them to be safer.

The members of the Department have spent 2,919.25 hours training to increase their skill levels; they also spent 7,459 hours at Fire & EMS calls. The total hours spent by members in 2004 was 10,378.25 man hours. These members put a huge amount of time providing protection to the citizens of Alton. We would like to thank Police Chief Kevin Iwans and Highway Road Agent Ken Roberts for the help that their Departments have given to the Alton Fire & Rescue Department in the past year. We would also like to thank the Board of Fire Wards for their continued support that they have shown to the Fire Department.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alan Johnson  
Fire Chief